



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Resource Conservation

Nutrient Management Program

## **FARMERS:**

### **ARE YOU USING FOOD PROCESSING RESIDUALS? IF SO, YOU NEED A PERMIT**

A permit from the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Nutrient Management Program is now required if you plan to transport, store, or spread food processing residuals (FPRs) on agricultural land in Maryland. FPRs are generated during the production and processing of food products such as milk and poultry. New legislation, which took effect July 1, 2024, requires the department to oversee the transport, storage, and land application of FPRs on Maryland farms as a nutrient source. People who engage in these activities must first obtain a permit from the department. The new rules aim to ensure that FPRs are managed to protect air and water quality.

In recent years, Maryland has joined a growing list of states regulating FPRs by requiring direct injection or same-day deep incorporation of FPRs on all cropland. However, residents in several Maryland counties have asked for stronger regulations and new permit requirements, which are now in place.

If you are a Maryland farmer who uses FPRs, here's what you need to know and do:

- If you plan to transport, store, or land apply FPRs on Maryland farmland, you must first obtain an annual Food Processing Residuals Utilization Permit.
- A separate permit is required for each activity (transport, storage, or applying).
- As a permit holder, you must post a bond to ensure compliance.
- Annual applications for transport and storage are due by November 15 and will be issued by January 1.
- Annual applications for land application of FPRs are due by January 15.
- Permits will be issued by March 1, when land application of nutrient sources resumes.
- All FPRs must be applied to fields following Maryland's nutrient management regulations.
- Nutrient management staff will be making site and field inspections to ensure compliance.
- The regulations are outlined in Title 20 of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) and have been published in the [Maryland Nutrient Management Manual](#).
- To request a permit application, please contact: Dwight Dotterer, Phone: 410-841-5877 | Email: [dwight.dotterer@maryland.gov](mailto:dwight.dotterer@maryland.gov)